

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 FEA-02 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 DRC-01 /135 W  
----- 074178

P 241056Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7398  
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH  
AMEMBASSY SAIGON  
CDR USSAG NKP  
CINCPAC

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 00607

E.O. 11652:-ZN/A

TAGS: ENRG, LA

SUBJECT: RLG STATEMENTS REGARDING POL SHORTAGE

REF: (A) VIENTIANE 0568

(B) VIENTIANE 0606

1. AS ANTICIPATED REFTEL A, RLG ISSUED STATEMENTS  
JANUARY 24 REGARDING FAILURE OF RTG AUTHORITIES TO  
RELEASE FUEL TO LAOS, BUT CSMARKS WERE RELATIVELY MILD  
AND ATTRIBUTED PROBLEM TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN NONG  
KHAI. OFFICIAL LAO PRESSE REPORTED THAT CABINET  
DISCUSSED IMMINENT POL CRISIS  
IN MEETING JANUARY 23  
AND THAT DEMARCHES HAD BEEN MADE TO RTG EMBASSY IN  
VIENTIANE AND BY RLG EMBASSY IN BANGKOK IN ORDER TO  
PERMIT ENTRY OF FUEL DESTINED FOR LAOS "BLOCKED BY  
LOCAL AUTHORITIES AT NONG KHAI." LAO PRESSE NOTES THAT  
RLG COMPLETELY SURPRISED BY THAI ACTIONS AND HOPES  
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THAT SOLUTION WILL BE FOUND QUICKLY IN ORDER TO PREVENT

A CRISIS.

2. RLG SPOKESMAN OUDAY SOUVANNAVONG, IN PRESS CONFERENCE MORNING JANUARY 24, ALSO DISCUSSED THE POL PROBLEM, STATING THAT THE RLG MINISTRY OF FINANCE HAD JUST THIS MORNING RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM BANGKOK CONFIRMING THAT RTG HAS SENT FORMAL ORDERS TO AUTHORITIES AT NONG KHAI FOR THE RELEASE OF FUEL FOR LAOS. OUDAY SAID THAT, ACCORDING TO THE THAI MINISTRIES OF EPYNOMY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE RTG HAD NEVER GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO SUSPEND EXPORT OF PBFUEL TO LAOS AND THWDXTHE "DIFFICULTIES" ARE THEREFORE ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AT NONG KHAI WHO BLOCKED DELIVERE OF THE LAO SUPPLY, WHICH RLG "DEEPLY REGRETTED." THEREFORE, OUDAY CONCLUDED, THAT IF THE ORDERS FROM BANGKOK ARE CORRECTLY TRANSMITTED AND EXECUTED, THE LAO NEED NOT FEAR A SHORTAGE OF FUEL; BUT, HE CAUTIONED, "ONE OUGHT NOT COUNT THE CHICKENS BEFORE THEY ARE HATCHED, AND BY THIS AFTERNOON LAO WILL BE ABLE BETTER TO EVALUATE GOOD WILL OF OUR NEIGHBORS." WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Film Number:** n/a  
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**To:** BANGKOK  
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